



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Minneapolis Fire Department and the Department of Regulatory Services

Date: March 26, 2012

To: Council Member Betsy Hodges, Chair – Ways/Means Budget Committee

Subject: MOU with Minneapolis Fire Department on Boardups

Recommendation: Approve methodology for Memo of Understanding between the Minneapolis Fire Department and the Department of Regulatory Services regarding boardup services.

Previous Directives: Directive at budget markup for 2012 budget for Regulatory Services to return to Ways and Means with the Memo of Understanding for \$400,000 to go to the Minneapolis Fire Department for boardups

Department Information

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Approved by:

John Fruetel, Minneapolis Fire Chief

Gregory K. Stubbs, AICP, Director of Regulatory Services

Presenters in Committee: Lee Larson, Tom Deegan and Perry Ebner

Financial Impact

- Action is within Regulatory Services' approved Business Plan

Community Impact

- Consistent with City Goals

Supporting Information

The Minneapolis Fire Department (MFD) and the Department of Regulatory Services have agreed on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for 2012 and beyond regarding boardup services. Key elements of the MOU are:

- \$400,000 will be transferred annually from the revolving fund to the Minneapolis Fire Department for boardup services. This will be the only payment to the MFD for boardup services, although the number of actual boardups will be tracked.
- The MFD may contract out with a private vendor for boardup services.
- Regulatory Services will continue to assess properties for boardup services. These assessments are subject to the lowering collection rate experience of problem property assessments. Therefore, complete cost-recovery will probably not be achieved in the boardup area.
- The MFD may identify another source or sources of funding so that the \$400,000 is no longer needed. In that case, the MFD will cancel the Memorandum of Understanding with sufficient time for Regulatory Services to take over managing the vendor contract.
- For non-emergency boardups, Regulatory Services will continue to provide notice to the Minneapolis Fire Department of properties found to be vacant during inspections.
- For emergency boardups, the Minneapolis Police Department, the Fire Department and Regulatory Services are authorized to require an immediate boardup in the event of a public safety threat. Emergency boardups must occur within 30 minutes of notice to the Minneapolis Fire Department.
- The Fire Department will continue to be responsible for emergency and non-emergency boarding.